



General Assembly

January Session, 2009

Raised Bill No. 6533

LCO No. 3380

03380_____JUD

Referred to Committee on Judiciary

Introduced by:
(JUD)

***AN ACT CONCERNING A DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION
ADVISORY COMMISSION.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2009*) (a) There is established a
2 commission of public members, legislators and other persons to work
3 with the Department of Correction to review policies and practices of
4 the department and to recommend changes in such policies and
5 practices, legislation or funding needs.

6 (b) The commission shall consist of sixteen members as follows: The
7 chairpersons and ranking members of the joint standing committee of
8 the General Assembly on judiciary, the executive director of the
9 African-American Affairs Commission, the executive director of the
10 Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs Commission, the director of the Office
11 of Protection and Advocacy for Persons with Disabilities and the
12 executive director of the Permanent Commission on the Status of
13 Women, or their designees, and eight public members, two of whom
14 shall be ex-offenders, two of whom shall be family members of current
15 or ex-offenders, two of whom shall be faith community leaders and
16 two of whom shall be community advocates, appointed one each by

17 the president pro tempore of the Senate, the speaker of the House of
18 Representatives, the majority leader of the Senate, the majority leader
19 of the House of Representatives, the minority leader of the Senate, the
20 minority leader of the House of Representatives, the senate
21 chairperson of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly
22 on judiciary and the house chairperson of the joint standing committee
23 of the General Assembly on judiciary. The commission shall select a
24 chairperson from among its members. Any vacancy in the appointed
25 membership of the commission shall be filled by the appointing
26 authority.

27 (c) Members of the commission shall receive no compensation for
28 their services but shall be reimbursed for any necessary expenses
29 incurred in the performance of their duties.

30 (d) Areas of commission study shall include programming, safety
31 for prisoners, staff and the public, overall prison conditions, health and
32 nutrition, reentry policies, financial issues, legal services, prison
33 telephone service contracts and the department's compliance with
34 diversity and cultural competence with respect to hiring and
35 promotion practices. All commission members shall decide on areas to
36 be studied.

37 (e) The commission shall meet six times a year. The commission
38 shall be within the Office of Policy and Management for administrative
39 purposes only.

40 (f) Each year the commission shall prepare a report of its findings
41 and recommendations with respect to department policy and practice,
42 including any recommendations for legislation, and shall hold a public
43 hearing thereon. Not later than January fifteenth of each year, the
44 commission shall submit such annual report to the Governor and the
45 General Assembly in accordance with section 11-4a of the general
46 statutes.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	<i>October 1, 2009</i>	New section
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Statement of Purpose:

To establish an advisory commission to review policies and practices of the Department of Correction and make recommendations concerning such policies and practices, legislation and funding.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]